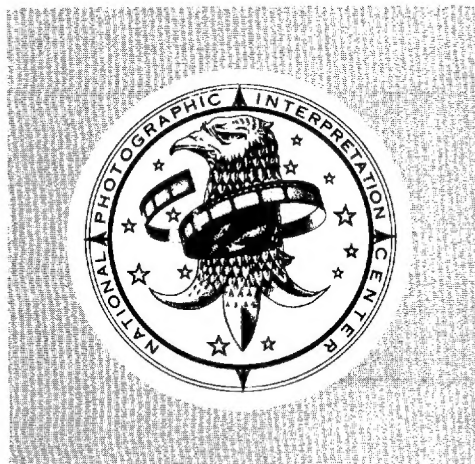


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**PHOTO
INTERPRETATION
NOTE**

**CONSTRUCTION STATUS OF SS-9 LAUNCH GROUPS
USSR**

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CONSTRUCTION STATUS OF SS-9 LAUNCH GROUPS

1. The construction status of the last identified launch group at each of the six SS-9 ICBM complexes varies widely. At the Aleysk complex, construction has been completed at all the identified launch groups. Silo construction has apparently been halted at the Dombarovskiy and Zhangiz-Tobe complexes, and a number of construction support buildings have been removed. Construction at the Imeni Gastello complex appears static while construction at the Kartaly and Uzhur complexes continues to progress, but at a very slow rate.

2. A total of 46 launch groups (276 launch sites) are now complete. At each SS-9 complex except Aleysk, the latest launch group identified is the only group which has not been completed.

3. The following is a description of activity at the five incomplete launch groups.

Dombarovskiy Launch Group K

4. Construction at the 11th launch group at this complex has apparently been halted, as indicated by the removal of construction support buildings and the lack of progress in silo construction. A total of 23 construction support buildings was present at the five identified launch sites in this group on [REDACTED]. Ten of these buildings had been removed by [REDACTED] and an additional four buildings had been removed by [REDACTED]. This leaves only nine buildings in this group, and seven of these are at the control site (67K). The number of construction support buildings at launch site 71K decreased from five buildings on [REDACTED] to two buildings on [REDACTED] (Figure 1). Silo excavations had been started at only three of the sites (67, 68, and 69) in this group. No silo cores had been observed. This launch group is estimated to have been started in [REDACTED].

Zhangiz-Tobe Launch Group I

5. Construction has apparently been halted in the ninth launch group at this complex, as indicated by the removal of construction support buildings and the lack of progress in silo construction. On [REDACTED] there were 16 construction support buildings at the six sites in this group. Half of these buildings had been removed by [REDACTED] two of them from launch site 56I (Figure 2). By that time silo excavations had been started at three of the sites (52, 55, and 56) with possible silo cores discernible at each. No track activity was noted at any of the six sites on the [REDACTED] coverage. It is estimated that this group was started in [REDACTED].

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Imeni Gastello Launch Group I

6. Construction of the ninth launch group at this complex is apparently static. None of the construction support buildings have been removed, but none of the silos have shown any advancement in their construction status since [REDACTED]. A number of construction support buildings have been added since [REDACTED] and seven of these were added to the control site (54I) since [REDACTED]. Construction at the silo area, however, has not progressed. It is estimated that this group was started in [REDACTED].

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Kartaly Launch Group G

7. Construction continues at the seventh launch group at this complex. The rate of this progress, however, is quite slow. The increased number of construction support buildings and the new work at some of the silos indicate continuing progress. A total of 15 buildings and three foundations was at the six sites on [REDACTED]. There were 18 buildings present by [REDACTED]. Four more buildings had been added by [REDACTED]. Two of these--and a foundation--were added to the control site (49G) (Figure 3). The excavation for the control bunker was first seen on the [REDACTED] coverage and had been enlarged by the [REDACTED] coverage. A possible silo excavation was visible at launch site 50G on the [REDACTED] coverage, and the excavation at launch site 53G appeared to have been enlarged. Launch site 51G is the only site at this group that does not have a silo excavation. It is estimated that this group was started in [REDACTED].

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Uzhur Launch Group J

8. Construction also shows progress at the tenth launch group at this complex. The progress, however, also continues to be very slow. The lack of any silo headworks after 18 months of construction is an indication of this slow progress. Five of the sites have completed silo excavations, and two of these (57 and 59) have a silo baseplate form around the silo core. Construction has also continued at the control site (56J). The walls of the control bunker and the two group support buildings were partially erected between [REDACTED]. It is estimated that this group was started in [REDACTED].

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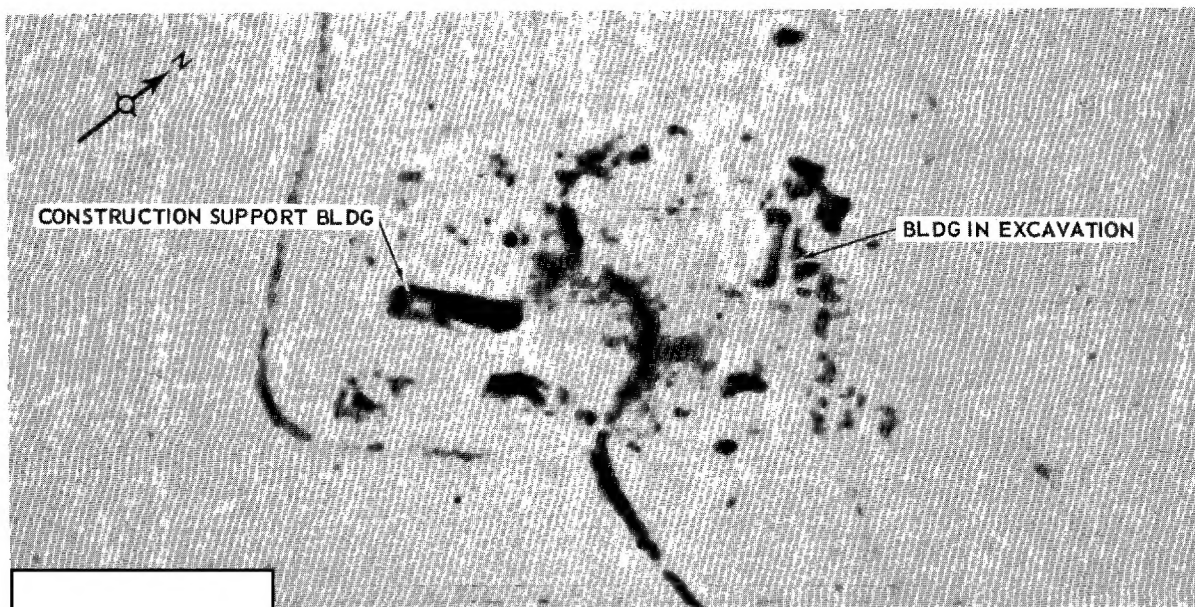
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FIGURE 1. REMOVAL OF SOME CONSTRUCTION SUPPORT BUILDINGS AT DOMBAROVSKIY LAUNCH SITE 71K

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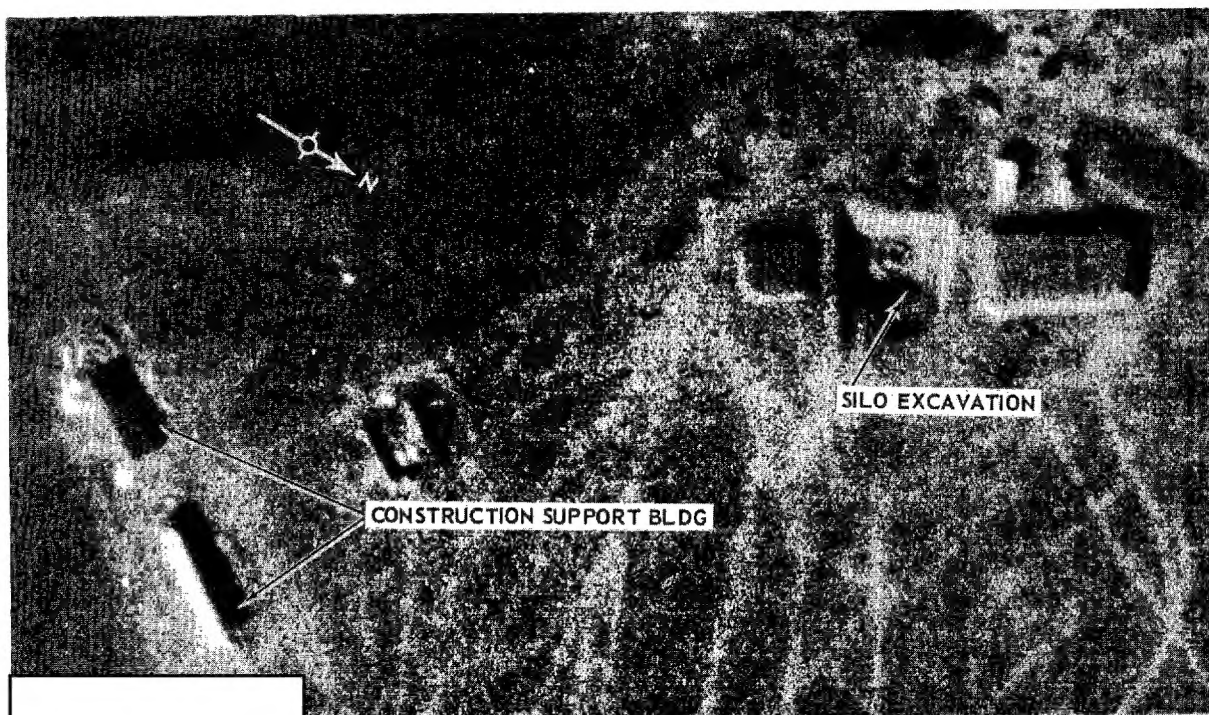
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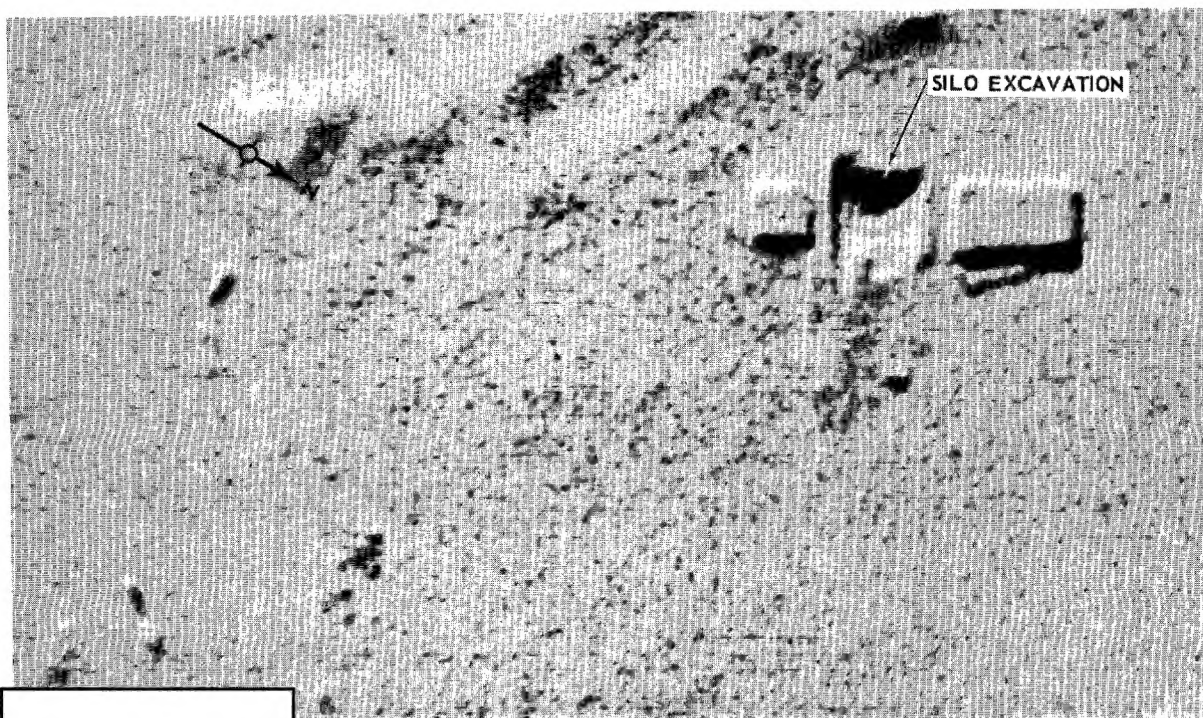
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FIGURE 2. REMOVAL OF CONSTRUCTION SUPPORT BUILDINGS AT ZHANGIZ-TOBE LAUNCH SITE 56I

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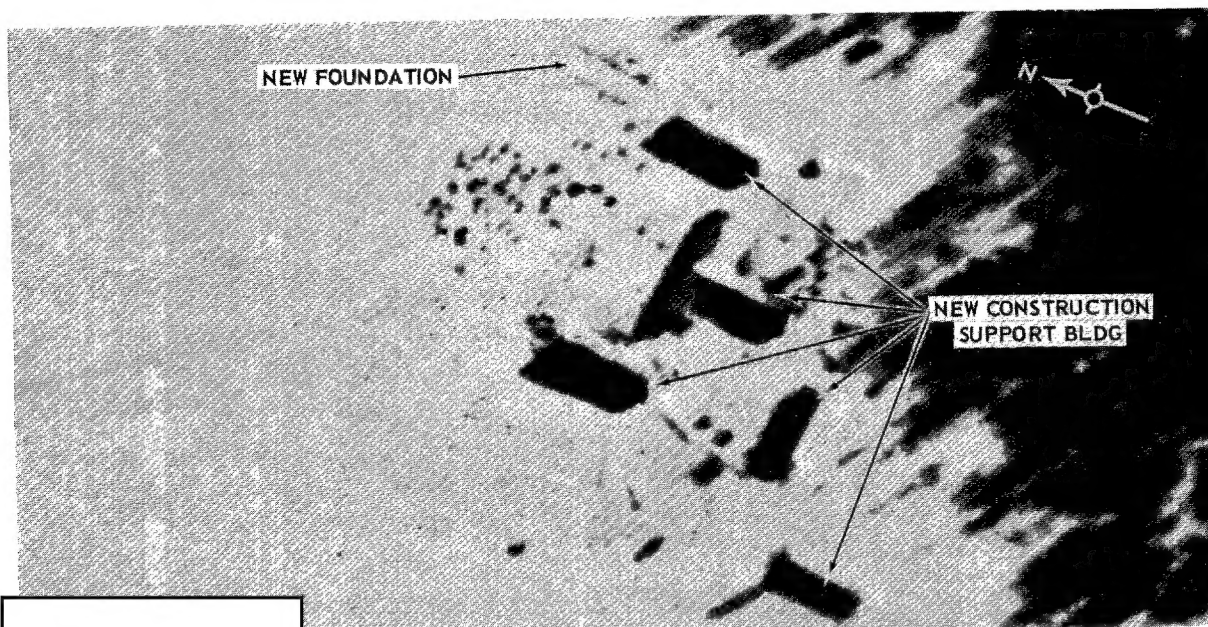
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FIGURE 3. CONTINUED CONSTRUCTION OF SUPPORT BUILDINGS AT KARTALY
LAUNCH SITE 49G

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